

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-14 as noted in the following listing of the claims. This listing replaces and supersedes all prior claim listings:

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging device for reading a signal captured out of by an image pickup device so as to generate an image signal based on the image captured image by said image pickup device;

a signal processor for generating image data of a predetermined frame rate based on said generated image signal;

a controller for controlling operation of at least one of said imaging device and or said signal processor to set a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame rate, and for generating associated information for indicating at least said set frame rate; and

a transmitter for combining said associated information with said image data to transmit the combined ones data.

2. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller allows for setting sets the variable frame rate of said image data by means of altering a reading frequency of reading at which the captured signal captured out of is read from said image pickup device.

3. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller allows for setting sets the variable frame rate of said image data by means of controlling said signal processor to perform frame-skipping.

4. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller ~~allows for setting~~ sets the variable frame rate of said image data by ~~means of altering a~~ reading frequency of reading at which the captured signal captured out of is read from said image pickup device and by controlling said signal processor to add said image data on a frame basis.

5. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller ~~allows for adding~~ adds a sub-frame number to each of the frames of said set frame rate included within one frame period of a reference frame rate ~~so as to include~~ and includes said sub-frame number in said associated information.

6. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signal processor samples an analog audio signal at a sampling frequency based on said set frame rate to generate audio data;

~~wherein said controller controls a sampling frequency of said analog audio signal in said signal processor based on said set frame rate; and~~

wherein said transmitter combines said associated information with said image data and said audio data ~~to transmit the combined ones.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a signal recording apparatus[[,]] ~~wherein said transmitter transmits a signal combining said~~ for receiving said combined associated information with and said image data to ~~said signal recording apparatus recording the signal thus~~ record the combined associated information and image data on a recording medium.

8. (Currently Amended) An imaging method comprising the steps of:

generating image data at a predetermined frame rate based on a signal read ~~out of~~ from an image pickup device;

setting a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame rate;

generating associated information including frame rate information ~~for indicating~~ said set frame rate of said image data; and

combining said associated information with said image data to transmit the combined ~~ones~~ data.

9. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein, ~~in said step of setting,~~ the variable frame rate of said image data is set by ~~means of altering a~~ reading frequency of reading at which the signal out of is read from said image pickup device.

10. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein, ~~in said step of setting,~~ the variable frame rate of said image data is set by ~~means of performing frame-skipping.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein, ~~in said step of setting,~~ the variable frame rate of said image data is set by ~~means of altering a~~ reading frequency of reading at which the signal out of is read from said image pickup device and ~~controlling said signal processor to add said image data~~ is added on a frame basis.

12. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein said associated information includes a sub-frame number allocated to each of the frames of said image data at said set frame rate that are included within one frame period of a reference frame rate.

13. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

sampling an analog audio signal at a sampling frequency to generate audio data; and
controlling ~~a said~~ sampling frequency of said analog audio signal based on said set frame rate, wherein, ~~in said combining and transmitting step,~~ said associated information is combined with said image data and said audio data ~~to transmit the combined ones.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein, ~~in said combining and transmitting step, a signal combining~~ said combined associated information with said and image data is transmitted to signal recording apparatus for recording the signal thus combined on a recording medium.